

What is claimed is:

1. A device for controlling a machine tool, the device comprising the following components:
 - a) at least one database (40) having supplementary data which are required for workpiece processing, the database (40) being arbitrarily organized;
 - b) a processing unit (20), which includes the following functional units:
 - b1) an input interface (21) for a machining program (10), which is suited for controlling the machine tool (50) during workpiece machining, the machining program (10) also including database access commands;
 - b2) a database interface (23) to the database (40);
 - b3) an interpreter unit (22), which processes the database access commands in the machining program (10) such that additionally required supplementary data are retrievable from the database (40);
 - b4) a conversion unit (24), which uses the supplementary data retrieved from the database (40) in the further course of the machining to execute the machining program (10).
2. The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein connected via a communications channel (60) between the database (40) and the database interface (23), is a database management unit (30), which organizes the data exchange between the processing unit (20) and the database (40).
3. The device as recited in Claim 2, wherein the database management unit (30) is configured such that it is addressable via the database access commands on the part of the processing unit (20), in accordance with the database access commands, extracts the requested supplementary data from the database (40),

from the database (40) for further workpiece machining.

11. The method as recited in Claim 10,
wherein supplementary data are requested and exchanged
between the processing unit (20) and the database (40)
via a communications channel (60) between the processing
unit (20) and the database (40), and a database
management unit (30) used for organizing the data
exchange between the processing unit (20) and the
database (40) is connected via the communications channel
(60).
12. The method as recited in Claim 11,
wherein the database management unit (30) is addressed
via the database access commands on the part of the
processing unit (20), in accordance with the database
access commands, the requested supplementary data are
extracted from the database (40) via the communications
unit (30), and the supplementary data in question are
made available by the communications unit (30) to a
conversion unit (24) for further processing.
13. The method as recited in Claim 12,
wherein an SQL server is used as the database management
unit (30).
14. The method as recited in Claim 10,
wherein the database access commands contained in the
machining program (10) are based on the SQL database
language or on another standardized database language,
which make it possible to read out from very diversified
databases.
15. The method as recited in Claim 10,
wherein, by way of the database access commands in the
machining program (10), the extracted supplementary data
of the database (40) are assigned to variables of the

machining program (10).

16. The method as recited in Claim 10,
wherein the retrieved supplementary data from the
database (40) are used in the course of the further
workpiece machining to parameterize further machining
tasks.